



Service Matters

Spring General Assembly Attracts Record Number of Attendees

Addressing almost 200 Bay Area elected officials and regional leaders, **San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, and Petaluma Mayor Pamela Torliatt** used a regional lens to examine their cities and share how they manage growth and create more livable communities. The four Bay Area mayors were featured during the Association of Bay Area Governments Spring General Assembly on April 19th in San Francisco.



(left to right) ABAG President, Dave Cortese, San Jose Vice Mayor; ABAG Vice President Rose Jacobs Gibson, San Mateo County Supervisor; Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom

Speaking on the issue of collaboration, Oakland Mayor Dellums said, "Regional collaboration is an imperative," and San Jose Mayor Reed agreed stating, "We need to look beyond our local community issues to create sustainable communities linked region-wide." San Francisco Mayor Newsom added, "Our collective environmental stewardship is vital."



San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed and Petaluma Mayor Pam Torliatt

Petaluma Mayor Torliatt described the successful transformation of 150 year old Petaluma to illustrate how local and regional issues intersect. From recycled land to precautionary principles of procurement, from water transit to green buildings, from

regional safety to issues of gangs, poverty and homelessness, the four mayors agreed and urged that these solutions only have maximum impact when they are part of region-wide efforts and partnerships.

In the opening session, **Elizabeth Deakin**, UC Berkeley City and Regional Planning Professor and Director of University of California Transportation Center (pictured here) highlighted Bay Area challenges of population, growth, and transportation in comparison to similar issues statewide, nationally, and globally. The regional dialogue that followed was moderated by **San Francisco Chronicle Urban Design writer John King** who prompted candid discussion among **Union City Mayor Mark Green, Campbell Mayor Daniel Furtado, Walnut Creek Mayor pro Tem Gwen Regalia, and Napa County Supervisor Bill Dodd** about setting regional priorities and building consensus. There was joint agreement that speaking with one voice regionwide was critical for achieving the policies and funding needed to create fiscally strong communities with a balance of jobs, housing, and conservation priorities. *The General Assembly also featured the annual business session where delegates approved the 2007-08 Budget and Work Program.*



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Regional Dialogue: (left to right) Moderator San Francisco Chronicle writer John King, Walnut Creek Mayor pro Tem Gwen Regalia, Campbell Mayor Dan Furtado, Union City Mayor Mark Green, and Napa County Supervisor Bill Dodd.

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Growing Smarter Together Awards

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Growing Smarter Together Awards

The **First Annual Growing Smarter Together Awards** were presented in a special ceremony during the General Assembly to the City of San Mateo, the City of Pleasant Hill, the Town of Windsor, and the County of Napa. The awards recognized the four local governments' innovative approaches and significant achievements in implementing the Bay Area Vision and smart growth principles. ABAG President and San Jose Vice Mayor Dave Cortese joined the Co-Chairs of the *Growing Smarter Together Awards* ABAG Vice President and San Mateo County Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson and former Santa Rosa Councilmember Steve Rabinowitsh in presenting the awards and said, "These excellent programs, projects, policies, and plans are outstanding efforts that can be emulated by cities, towns, and counties throughout the Bay Area."

The **City of San Mateo** received the **Start It Up Award** for the Rail Corridor Transit Oriented Development Plan, a policy document developed over five years of intensive public review that has already helped expedite and improve development infrastructure and community connection.

The **City of Pleasant Hill** was awarded the **On the Ground - Getting It Done Award** for the Villa Montanaro Apartments/Transit Oriented Development Project (TOD), an infill development project that transformed an under-utilized and deteriorated site into a well designed housing development near BART.

The **County of Napa** was presented the **Preserving and Protecting the Environment Award** for the Napa County Baseline Data Report, a pioneering approach to environmental and resource management and tool for integrating environmental benefits into an overall development plan or project.

The **Town of Windsor** received the **Public-Private Partnership Award** for the Town Green Village Project that demonstrated outstanding collaboration with business and community to revitalize their downtown with a walkable, mixed-use housing and business development.

The award winners were showcased in a special video premiered at the General Assembly that was produced by Comcast. PG&E and Comcast were corporate sponsors of the conference and underwrote the awards program.



(From left to right) Growing Smarter Together Award Co-Chair Rose Jacobs Gibson, ABAG Vice President and San Mateo County Supervisor; John (Jack) Matthews, City of San Mateo Mayor, accepting the Start it Up award for San Mateo

John Hanecak, City of Pleasant Hill Vice Mayor, accepting for Pleasant Hill the On the Ground—Getting It Done award (left) with Steve Rabinowitsh, Award Co-chair and former Santa Rosa Councilmember



Napa County Supervisor Mark Luce accepting for Napa County the Preserving and Protecting the Environment Award (middle), with ABAG President Dave Cortese (left), and ABAG Vice President Rose Jacobs Gibson (right)

Warin Parker, Town of Windsor Mayor, accepting the Public-Private Partnership Award for the Town of Windsor (right), with ABAG President Dave Cortese



General Assembly opening session



Attendees with questions during the Regional Dialogue

FOCUS Priority Development Area Designation Applications Available

FOCUS program applications are now being accepted for designation of areas within the nine county San Francisco Bay Area as regional development priorities. Local governments are encouraged to submit an application for an area or areas within their jurisdiction by **Friday, June 29, 2007.**

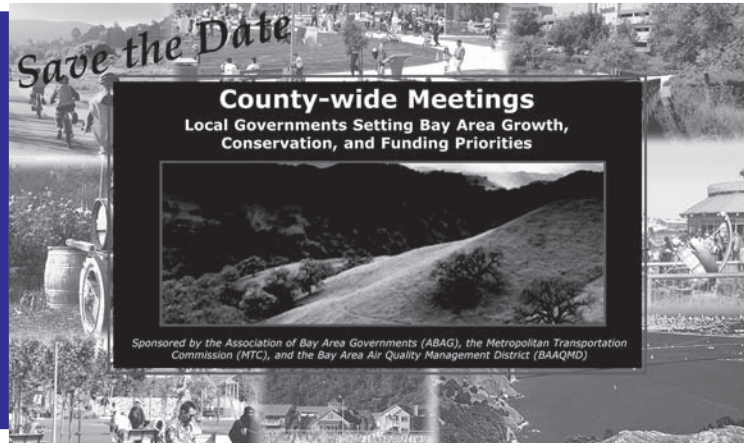
The designation process is an important part of the FOCUS program because the identification of regional development priorities informs regional agencies and the State where incentives and assistance are needed to support local efforts that accommodate growth and infill development near transit. Through this collaborative planning, regional agencies and willing jurisdictions can then tackle shared challenges associated with housing more people in this region. Participation in the priority development area designation process is voluntary, and local jurisdictions that do not choose to participate at this time will have other opportunities at a later date.

About FOCUS

The FOCUS program is a regional planning initiative spearheaded by ABAG and MTC in coordination with BAAQMD and BCDC. FOCUS advances a regional Vision that concentrates future growth near transit and in

the existing communities that surround the San Francisco Bay, enhancing existing neighborhoods and providing housing and transportation choices for all residents.

Almost 200 elected officials and senior staff from around the Bay Area have attended



county FOCUS meetings to discuss local and regional issues and funding needs, and identify local examples of best practices for creating more livable communities. Presented by ABAG, MTC, and the Air District, this series of meetings have been held in eight of the nine Bay Area counties, with the City and County of San Francisco meeting to be scheduled later in May. For more information and applications forms, visit www.bayareavision.org/focus.



*State Assemblymember Loni Hancock (left), Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, was recognized as the **first state official** to have her office (District 14 office in El Cerrito) certified as a Green Business at the fifth annual recognition ceremony for public agencies certified as Green Businesses. ABAG Green Business Regional Coordinator Ceil Scandone (right) emceed the presentations at the ABAG Executive Board Meeting on March 15.*

Successful Community Engagement Workshop Proceedings Now Available Online

The first in the FOCUS conference series, *Successful Community Engagement*, showcased best practices in community engagement from the perspective of public officials, planners, and consultants. More than 80 attendees heard how local governments found new ways to assure public support for potentially divisive community planning issues. The proceedings that include panel descriptions, PowerPoint presentations, distributed materials, and photos of the conference, are now available at www.bayareavision.org/outreach/sceproceedings.html. For more information on upcoming FOCUS conferences, visit www.bayareavision.org/outreach/focusconferenceseries.html.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

May 2007

May 16

PLAN Executive Committee 10:00 am
ABAG Conference Room B

May 17

Legislation & Governmental Organization 3:30 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

Finance & Personnel Committee 5:00 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

ABAG Executive Board 7:00 pm
MetroCenter, Auditorium

May 18

ABAG / BAAQMD / MTC Joint Policy Committee 10:00 am
MetroCenter, Auditorium

June 2007

June 4

Bay Trail Board of Directors Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Mill Valley Community Center
180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley

June 6

PLAN Board of Directors 10:00 am
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

June 6

Regional Planning Committee 1:00 pm
MetroCenter, Auditorium

June 14

Bay Trail Steering Committee Meeting 1:30 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

June 20

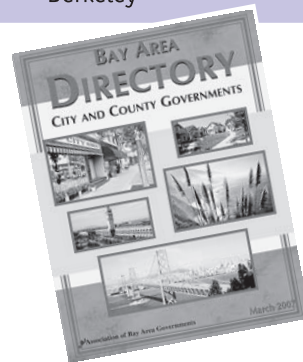
ABAG POWER Executive Committee 12 Noon
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

June 22

Regional Airport Planning Committee 9:30 am
MetroCenter, Auditorium

June 28

FOCUS on Bay Area Housing Conference 9:00 am
Gaia Building, 2116 Allston Way, Berkeley



ABAG'S 2007 BAY AREA DIRECTORY – Features City and County Governments

Features detailed contact information for local elected officials and key staff members of the Bay Area 9 counties and 101 member cities and towns

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